



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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For Release: **IMMEDIATE**  
Date: September 25, 2007

Contact: Renee Hoffman  
Phone: 919/733-5612

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**GOV. EASLEY ORDERS REVIEW OF HIRING AND SUPERVISION OF HIGHWAY PATROL  
TROOPERS**

**RALEIGH** - Gov. Mike Easley has directed Sec. Bryan Beatty and Col. Fletcher Clay to conduct a review of the hiring and screening process and supervisory procedures of the Highway Patrol. The action follows a series of recent incidents in which troopers were fired for violations of Patrol policy.

"I am proud of the Patrol and while nearly all are outstanding public servants, there are a few who are not," Easley said. "Col. Clay is right to fire troopers who violate the law and Patrol policy, but we need to find out how these people get hired in the first place."

Beatty, secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, the Patrol's parent department, is a former director of the State Bureau of Investigation. Clay, a 28-year veteran of the Highway Patrol, was named commander in June 2004.

Easley ordered a review of the Patrol's hiring process to make sure that the standards are high enough to screen out the type of behavior that has occurred recently. He has also asked for a review of administrative training and procedures in the Patrol to make sure supervisors are properly managing troopers at the district level.

State trooper positions currently require troopers to undergo a criminal record check, background investigation, drug screening, and written and physical tests. They must also pass a polygraph exam, a psychological test and appear before an applicant review panel. Applicants are required to have at a minimum high school diploma or GED and be a citizen of the United States. They must complete a six-month Basic Patrol School followed by a 12-week Field Training and Evaluation Program at their duty stations. New troopers then undergo an 11-month evaluation by their immediate supervisor.

All Highway Patrol members receive ethics and legal training at the Highway Patrol Training Academy and undergo in-service instruction each year to get updates in laws, new Patrol procedures and other training as required. Supervisors attend an 11-week managerial training session as a condition of promotion to sergeant and the Patrol partners with N.C. State University to conduct an Administrative Officers Management Program that is open to any law enforcement officer in the nation.

As a result of recent incidents on the Patrol, Col. Clay has taken several internal steps including ordering increased ethics training for all members during the next series of in-service classes and directing his command staff including Troop Commanders to reinforce proper behavior and decision making to all members in their districts.

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